POS 2041- 84802
American National Government
3 Credit Hours—Pre-requisites: None

Course Syllabus
Fall Semester B 2024
August 19 – October 11, 2024

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented on the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is designed to offer flexibility in completing Chapter and Unit assignments, while also following a schedule. Each Unit, comprised of multiple chapters, contains learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with various due dates. Refer to the course schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Instructor Contact Information:
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Instructor Education:
Associate in Arts, Political Science, Gulf Coast State College
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, University of Central Florida
Master of Science, Applied American Politics and Policy, Florida State University
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Electronic Office Hours: As this is an online course, there will be no on-campus office hours. If you have items to discuss or need assistance, please email, or send a Canvas message. Plan two business days for a response.

Required Textbook: Krutz, Glen, Sylvie Waskiewicz. *American Government*, 3rd Edition, OpenStax.; 2021. Hardcover ISBN: 13: 978-1-711493-96-1, Paperback IBSN: 13: 978-1-711493-95-4, Digital ISBN: 13: 978-1-951693-38-1.

Course Catalog Description: In this course, students will trace the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction Era to the contemporary era. Topics will include but are not limited to the rise of industrialization, the United States' emergence as an actor on the world stage, constitutional amendments and their impact, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression and New Deal, World War II, issues of civil and minority rights, the Cold War, and the United States since 1989.

Teaching Techniques: The means of content delivery for this course, includes instructor-generated lectures, textbook readings, PowerPoint presentations, discussion board contributions, one-on-one correspondence, online videos, and supplementary websites. Each of these techniques supports the broad goals of students learning the American political system in its most broad aspects and understanding the functions, processes, policies, and philosophical foundations of that system.

Student Learning Outcomes: The successful POS 2041 experience will result in the student's ability to:

1. Describe the factual details of the substantive historical episodes under study.
2. Identify and analyze foundational developments that shaped American history since 1877 using critical thinking skills.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the primary ideas, values, and perceptions that have shaped American history.
4. Demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

6A-10.02413-1 Civics Literacy Competency

Before the award of an associate in arts, associate in science, or a baccalaureate degree, first-time-in-college students entering a Florida College System institution in the 2021-2022 school year, and thereafter, must demonstrate competency in civics literacy by completing (1) and (2) before graduation:

(1) Successfully passing either POS 2041 American Government or AMH 2020 United States History Since 1877. Each of the courses must include the following competencies:
  (a) Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government;
  (b) An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application;
  (c) Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government; and
  (d) An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

(2) Achieving the standard score on <u>one</u> of the following assessments:

Assessment:	Standard Score:
AP Government and Politics, US	3
AP United States History	4
CLEP: American Government	50
Florida Civics Literacy Exam	60

The Division of Social Sciences has created a Preparation Module for students wishing to prepare for the Florida Civics Literacy Exam. The module is housed within a designated Canvas page. You can self-register for the Canvas Prep Module via the following link: **https://gcsc.instructure.com/enroll/FNC8GL**.

Please Note: The Florida Civics Literacy Exam is **separate** from this course; thus, it is not part of your grade.

Student Expectation Statement: Students will be expected to complete all course requirements through the GCSC Canvas LMS and take an active role in this course by listening to the lectures, reading the textbook, taking notes, and learning new and varied perspectives from their peers through the courteous and articulate discussion board posts. Communication should always be respectful, polite, and articulate – No hostility, vulgarity, or other harmful/discouraging/discriminatory language or action will be tolerated.

Technology Requirements for this Course: This course requires students to have access to a computer and the Internet. For those students who do not own a computer, computer labs are available on the GCSC campus and in public libraries. Students without internet can come to the GCSC campus, and go to local public libraries, coffee shops, etc.

Minimal technical skills are required for this course; however, skills required include the ability to navigate the Microsoft Office Suite applications and Canvas.

Technical Assistance:
- Phone - Technical support is available 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.
- In-Person - Technicians are available, on the Panama City Campus, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Course Requirements: Take responsibility for your learning by:
- ✓ Listening to the lectures and taking notes accordingly.
- ✓ Reading the textbook.
- ✓ Utilizing the Discussion Board and posting as assigned.
- ✓ Complete all three Unit Examinations **AS SCHEDULED.**
  - ➢ Deadlines are non-negotiable; however,
  - ➢ If there is a conflict with the examination window, contact me well before the deadline and, on a case-by-case basis, you may take the exam early.
- ✓ Communicate any issues or questions in a timely manner.

Respect deadlines – They are not guidelines.

Method of Evaluation:		Assignment of Grades:	
Unit I Exam	20%	A	90.0%-100%
Unit II Exam	20%	B	80.0%-89.9%
Unit III Exam	20%	C	70.0%-79.9%
Chapter Quizzes: 10	20%	D	60.0%-69.9%
Discussion Boards: 10	20%	F	59.9% and below

The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped, and the remaining ten scores will make up 20% of the final grade.

To successfully pass the chapter quizzes, you should listen to the lecture and read the chapter in the textbook. After the quiz closes, it is closed, and there will be no opportunity to make up quizzes you may have missed.

Instructor Policies and General Information: Be mindful of how you communicate with instructors. Proofread all correspondence before sending or posting, and always be respectful. Additionally, before sending the instructor a message, verify that the question or concern has not already been addressed via a Canvas course announcement, Canvas message, or this syllabus.

Attendance Policy: A student's acquisition of learning outcomes is tied to attendance. Excessive absences guarantee that a student has not had minimal exposure to enough of the student learning outcomes to receive credit for the course. As such, missing multiple class periods will likely lead to failure.

For an online course, attendance is measured by assignment submissions. To be counted as present for the week's classes, students must submit at least one of the week's assignments. The only way to be successful in this course is to keep up with all the assigned readings, available lectures, and coursework.

Make-Up Work Policy: Students should be forewarned that policies on missed and late work in this class are strict and rigid with *very* few exceptions. Please acquaint yourself with the assignment deadlines now and plan to ensure that you do not miss any assignments, exams, or assignment deadlines.

Potential exception circumstances to the zero-tolerance late policy:

Students should promptly contact me when any **unforeseen, legitimate circumstance beyond his/her control** (i.e., events that do not involve choice, like a documented illness or medical emergency) occurs that may result in a missed assignment deadline. However, since all chapter assignments open with each unit, students should be proactive by completing them early to avoid issues as deadlines approach. Students who foresee missing assignments and/or exam deadlines due to voluntary travel or other circumstances within the student's control should contact me and submit work *early*. Additionally, there is flexibility for exams to be opened early on a case-by-case basis but there is no flexibility for late submissions.

Likewise, note that a lack of access to internet services is not a valid excuse for missing or late work. As an online student, it is your responsibility to figure out a way to submit your work. The library on campus is open after hours and there are many public spaces with free Wi-Fi (your public library, Panera, McDonald's, etc.). Take advantage of the Canvas app and other services on your phone as well, if possible.

Further, if Canvas is down or not letting you submit, you should email the assignment to me as an attached PDF or .docx file from your GCSC email account before the deadline for that assignment has passed.

Division Policies Regarding COVID-19: The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. If you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home to protect others. Notify your professor of your condition by phone or email. If you test positive for the COVID-19 virus, please inform your instructor(s) to make arrangements for course requirements and David Thomasee, Campus Safety & Security, at 873-3582. You will receive additional instructions at that time. Confidentiality will be maintained.

This information is subject to change. For the most recent information, please refer to the Gulf Coast State College website regarding COVID-19: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/covid-19-coronavirus.html.

Academic Integrity Policy: Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

The following definitions will apply:

   a. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing

papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

b. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

- "Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism.

- Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

- Plagiarism also includes the overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT.

c. Individual instructors or programs may provide students with additional academic integrity policy statements at the start of a semester.

d. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity to failure of the course, to suspension, or dismissal from the program or the college.

e. An instructor who believes that an incidence of academic misconduct has occurred will discuss it immediately with the student. If, in the judgment of the instructor, the student has committed an act of academic misconduct, or if the student admits that there has been misconduct, the instructor will assess the appropriate penalty.

f. Instances of admitted or proven academic misconduct should be reported in writing to the Dean of Student Life. The purpose of this report is to track individuals who have repeated incidences. The Vice President of Academic Affairs reserves the right to pursue disciplinary action against a student if deemed necessary.

g. Students who think they have been treated unfairly may invoke the Student Academic Grievance Procedure.

Student Accessibility Statement: Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Before receiving accommodation, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures: In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf

Email & Voicemail Response Time: Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance: Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor

after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as the submission of complete written assignments before their posted deadline.

Withdrawals: Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals: Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades: Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor before the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.